MISSION 16

THIS TRAG-EDY...
HEY, ANYA.
BUSY NOW.
Cartoons.

BUT HOW, BONDMAN? HOW CAN THIS BE?!
...
...

STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

I HATE STUDYING !!

NOOOOOO!!

OPERATION STRIX: PHASE 2

YOU'RE A MEANIE, PAPA! A BIG MEAN MEANIE!

YOU-ZU-KU

YOU PROMISED ME WE'D STUDY AT FIVE O'CLOCK!

STOP STRUGGLING!

BWAAAHH!

FLAIL FLAIL

IN ORDER TO INFILTRATE THE TARGET'S SOCIAL CIRCLE, THE OPERATIVE'S DAUGHTER, ANYA, MUST GAIN ENTRY TO THE IMPERIAL SCHOLAR HONOR SOCIETY.

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I SAY IT? THAT'S SPELLED WITH AN "A," NOT AN "E"!

TO DO SO, SHE MUST EARN MERITS, KNOWN AS STELLA STARS, THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE. HOWEVER...

THEN LOOK AT THIS IDIOM HERE. BONDMAN SAID IT IN EPISODE 16!

UNDERSTANDING IDIOMS

I DON'T REMEM-BER THAT.

IS THAT BECAUSE OF HER CARTOON ?

GLINT

TWO-EIGHTHS OF AM-YOO-NISH-UN.

OH, BUT... LOOK AT THIS, LOID! HER MATH SCORE ISN'T BAD AT ALL!

GREAT JOB, ANYA!

I ONLY FLUNKED THIS TEST CUZ I READ THE WRONG KID'S MIND.

...

IT WAS THE PART WHERE THE GUY WITH THE SIDEBURNS ...

ECIALTY: ??

SPECIALTY: ??

SPECIALTY: ??

SPECIALTY: ??

CIALTY: ??

SPECIALTY: ??

SPECIALTY: ??

FROM NOW ON I'LL TAKE THE TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHICH OF MY CLASSMATES IS GOOD AT WHICH SUBJECT.

...I'LL ACE THE TEST EVERY TIME!

Easy-peasy!

THAT WAY WHEN I CHEAT...

I'D NEED A CORRESPONDING IMPROVEMENT IN ACTUAL PERFORMANCE TO MAKE THE FORGERIES SEEM PLAUSIBLE.

IT'D BE SIMPLE ENOUGH TO SURREPTITIOUSLY CHANGE HER SCORES INTO A-PLUSES IN THE SCHOOL RECORDS, BUT THE SUDDEN IMPROVEMENT IN HER GRADES WOULD DRAW SUSPICION.

HMM...

HEE HEE! I SOUND JUST LIKE PAPA.

!!

THE LAST THING I NEED IS HER WANTING TO QUIT...

BESIDES, UNEARNED PLAUDITS COULD ENGENDER RESENTMENT FROM HER CLASSMATES, LEADING TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL.

...MY CLASSMATES WILL HATE ME...?

SO IF I ACE THE TEST THROUGH MIND READING...

SHE'S A FREAK! SHE'S LIKE SOME KINDA WITCH!

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE KNOWN THAT ANSWER?!

MAYBE I'M BEING TOO STRICT IN PUSHING HER TO STUDY THIS MUCH.

IF SHE'S STUDYING AGAINST HER WILL, I'M UNLIKELY TO SEE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN FOCUS OR SCHOLARSHIP.

GLOOM...

...

!

THERE'S ALSO VISUAL ARTS!

OKAY, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH STUDYING. SHOULD WE DRAW A LITTLE?

VARIETY IS IMPORTANT FOR MOTIVATION. AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO EARN STELLA...

IT'S A COW.

OH, THAT'S A NEAT PICTURE. IS THAT A CHEETAH? NO, WAIT... IT'S A PANDA, RIGHT?

The one at school.

SCRITCH SCRITCH

SKRUH SKRUH

SKREEE SKREEE

SNAP

SNAP

Give it a try!

I BOUGHT YOU A CHILD-SIZED VIOLIN!

THERE'S ALSO MUSIC!

SPLAT

HYAH!

FWSH

FWSH

VAULTING BOX

BOING BOING

THERE'S ALSO SPORTS! SHE'S TOO YOUNG FOR THE SCHOOL TEAMS, BUT MAYBE IF SHE DISTINGUISHED HERSELF IN P.E. TOURNA-MENTS...

SNIFFLE

SNIFFLE

I JUST NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION, TO DISCOVER WHAT SUBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SHE NATURALLY EXCELS AT...

KEEP IT TOGETHER, TWILIGHT. THIS IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT. REMEMBER THAT SHE'S ONLY IN FIRST GRADE!

You're okay.

WAAAHH!!

BOING BOING

BUT THEN AGAIN...

Our goal is to acquire eight stella within the next four months.

DESMOND ISN'T GOING TO MAKE HIS MOVE RIGHT AWAY. IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO PLAN A WAR.

LET'S TRY JUMPING ROPE! DOESN'T THAT SOUND FUN?

I CAN'T RUSH THIS.

...?

SMACK

CAN I REALLY BE SO SURE WE HAVE TIME TO SPARE?

I'M GONNA WORK REAL HARD.

GLINT

PAPA.

ANYA, WILL YOU GO SOMEWHERE WITH ME TOMORROW?

AN OOTING ?!

OH... YES...

BUT... CAN YOU GET THIS OFF ME FIRST?

...THERE IS ONE OTHER WAY TO EARN STELLA.

BERLINT HOSPITAL

IN ADDITION TO ARTS, SPORTS AND ACADEMICS...

I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU, PARENTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE, FOR VOLUNTEERING AT OUR HOSPITAL.

COMMUNITY SERVICE!

SCHOOL RECORDS INDICATE THAT NUMEROUS STELLA HAVE BEEN AWARDED FOR LONG-TERM VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES.

I'VE PREPARED A LIST OF TASKS WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR HELP WITH.

...SO USING AGENCY PERSONNEL TO MANUFACTURE SUCH AN INCIDENT IS ANOTHER OPTION. BUT WITH THE RISKS INVOLVED, IT'S NOT ONE I'D PURSUE LIGHTLY.

A little too dangerous for first graders...

THERE ARE ALSO RARE CASES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE STELLA BEING AWARDED FOR SINGULAR FEATS, LIKE SAVING LIVES OR ASSISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT...

CRASH

THAT'S FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY.

PAPA, LOOK! THEY GOT A POOL!

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TASK, I'D LIKE THE FORGER FAMILY TO CLEAN THE LOCKER ROOM HERE.

MAP

...AND WE'D BE VERY GRATEFUL.

EVEN IF VOLUNTEERING DOESN'T PAY OFF ANYTIME SOON, IT WOULDN'T HURT TO FOSTER A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE IN ANYA.

EXCUSE ME, IS THAT YOUR DAUGHTER?

?

LET'S TRY TIDYING UP THE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY.

MAYBE CLEANING IS A LITTLE TOO ADVANCED?

UHHH ...

PERHAPS YOU'D PREFER A DIFFERENT ASSIGN-MENT?

...

MANGA

I'LL GO FIND A SURJ-REE ROOM!

WAIT, NO! STOP!

WOO SH

I WANNA BE THE LADY WHO HANDS STUFF TO DOCTORS!

I'M TIRED OF CLEAN-ING!

Yes-sir!

FWSH

Scal-pel.

WHAT ...?

PAPA, I'M REALLY SORRY...

IT'S OKAY. EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES.

Let's go home.

...

SHOCK

THAT IS THE LAST STRAW! YOU TWO ARE EXCUSED FROM SERVICE!

SO IS PHYSICAL THERAPY GONNA HURT?

HOBBLE HOBBLE

SO MUCH FOR GETTING A COMMUNITY SERVICE STELLA. NOW WHAT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. JUST GO GET YOUR SWIMSUIT ON.

I'll be changing over there, okay?

Okay

Don't overdo it.

IS THE WATER GONNA BE COLD?

REHABIL

POOL

IT MIGHT HURT A LITTLE, BUT IF IT HELPS YOU RUN AGAIN, ISN'T IT WORTH IT?

I GUESS ...

SO THIS IS THE POOL FOR GROWN-UPS?

SPLASH SPLASH

ALL RIGHT, ONE AND TWO! ONE AND TWO!

SPLASH

SLIP

BWAH ?!

IT IS COLD. I KNEW IT!

Ughh...

SPLISH

I GUESS HE'S STILL GETTING CHANGED...?

KEN? WHERE ARE YOU?

BLUB BLUB

Yeah, okay!

Let's try one more rep!

GURGLE

GLUG

GLUG

GLUG

KRAKL

HELLP...!

...
BREATHE
...

...
HURTS
...

I suppose I'll ask HQ to reconsider their—

GASP

?!

HELP...

PLEASE ...

...

PAPA, I KNOW I WAS A BAD VOL-IN-TEER

SOME-BODY'S DROWNING IN THE POOL!

HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?! WHAT ARE YOU?!

WHAT, THE BATHROOM AGAIN? YOU JUST WENT!

"POOL"...?!

PAPA!!

ONE, TWO! ONE, TWO!

BLUB BLUB BLUB

...OOL

P...!

BLUB

BLUB

BLUB

...MM

...SIT

WHAT ?!

WOOSH

SO I'LL GET A STELLA FROM SWIMMING! I'M GONNA PRACTICE IN THE POOL!

DASH

STOP! I TOLD YOU, THAT'S NOT A PUBLIC POOL!

YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

Stop!

AAAHH!

WHA —?!

HAAAA!

KEN? ARE YOU IN HERE?

IS HE THAT AFRAID OF PHYSICAL THERAPY ...?

That kid...

SHU

HEY!

WHERE'S THE DROWNING PERSON ?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH MY, THIS POOL LOOKS SO FUN.

...GONNA DIE...

TM

P

BUB BUB

I'M...

HSOOTS

AHHHH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB

FLEE

BLUB

...

NGHH

FLAIL FLAIL

AND NOW I'M—

GL

URG

I CAN'T!

GR AB

GR AB

SPLOO

GAH!

SH

IS THAT YOU, KEN?!

WHAT HAPPENED ?!

SPL

SH

KOFF KOFF

PAPA ...

HEY! YOU OKAY?!

SOMEBODY GET A DOCTOR!

BLURK!

HAACK!

I WENT TO SWIM AND SAW HIM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL!

PLEASE BE CAREFUL NOT TO TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THEM.

THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENS. WHEN CHILDREN DROWN, THEY BARELY MAKE ANY SOUND AT ALL. EVEN NEARBY ADULTS OFTEN FAIL TO HEAR ANYTHING.

Is every-one okay?

CALM DOWN.

WHY...? HOW DID THIS...?

KEN, ARE YOU OKAY?!

KOFF KOFF

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? WE WERE RIGHT THERE!

I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN THERE!

WAAAH!

I DIDN'T HEAR A THING!

THANK YOU, DEAR. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

YOU DID GREAT, SWEETHEART! YOU'RE A HERO!

I SAW THE AIR BUBBLES!

Although you were reckless too!

WE'RE JUST LUCKY YOU SAW HIM, ANYA.

SHI NG

WOOSH

SWAP

...WE AWARD THIS STELLA TO ANYA FORGER OF CECILE HALL!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

FOR THE MERITORIOUS DEED OF HELPING TO SAVE ANOTHER'S LIFE...

I can't believe she beat me...

ANYA, YOU DID IT! YOU GOT THE FIRST STELLA IN ALL OF FIRST GRADE!

YAAY

AN EXCEPTIONALLY ELEGANT FEAT, MISS FORGER.

I NEVER EXPECTED SHE WOULD EARN A STELLA THAT WAY. AS FAR AS THE MISSION GOES, IT'S AN IDEAL OUTCOME.

♡ SQUEEZE

I AM SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

SQUEEZE

THAT WAS INCREDIBLE, ANYA. YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING!

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF THE TIME I FOILED THAT TERRORIST ATTACK...

!

PAT PAT

IT'S STRANGE, THOUGH...

NICE WORK, ANYA.

I FEEL THAT SAME PRIDE TODAY.

...TO HELP PEOPLE...?

CLENCH

I CAN USE MY POWER...

EH HEH!

SHOCK

I'D RATHER HAVE PAPA'S COOKING.

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL TONIGHT!

STELLA STARS TILL IMPERIAL SCHOLAR: 7
TONITRUS BOLTS TILL EXPULSION: 7
RESPECT FROM EVERYONE: +100

SPY×FAMILY